

PLAYS FOR THIS WEEK.

Among the Novelties Are "The Wedding Day" and "The Wife of Searli."

PERHAPS the most important event of the tail end of the theatrical season occurs at the Casino on Thursday night, when the three comic opera stars, Lillian Russell, Della Fox and Jeff De Angelis, make their initial joint appearance in a new comic opera by Stanislaus Stapa and Julian Edwards, entitled "The Wedding Day."

The opera is in three acts, with the inscription of the Frontiste in France in the seventeenth century as a background. The story centres about an incident in this epoch, in which the Insurrectionists attempted to bring about a treaty with Spain, in which the Insurrectionists attempted to bring about a treaty with Spain, in which the Insurrectionists attempted to bring about a treaty with Spain.

Lucille in her efforts to secure the treaty is aided by Rose Marie, the wife of a Parisian officer, and by Poly.

The many humorous adventures which the three undergo while trying to get the treaty form the main thread of the opera.

Miss Russell will appear as Lucille, Miss as Rose, and Mr. De Angelis as Poly.

Besides the principals, the big organization contains William Prunette, Tom Brown, Leonard Savoy, Windfield Blake, Alf C. Whelan, Alfred McGucken, Lucille Saunders, Louise Rial, Sally Randall, Grace Freeman, May Outburt and Marguerite Leon.

"A Man and His Wife," a comedy by George Fleming, will be produced for the first time in this city at a special matinee at the Empire Theatre on Tuesday.

The story of the piece is woven around three persons—Robert Ainslie, who has been a Benedict for a year; his wife, Eleanor, and Sir Noel Drage, Eleanor has aspirations.

She comes of an unostentatious family, but indulges in dreams of social distinction, and is dominated by a desire to meet literary lights and to spend all the time she can in the company of society people and to artistic circles.

Her husband's disposition is just the opposite. He does not share her desire and ambitions, but is a plain, practical man, and cherishes only one sentiment in the world, and that is love for his wife. Husband and wife go to London for a visit. There Eleanor meets Sir Noel Drage, who is a friend of her husband. Sir Noel is so different from Roger, so much more distinguished, so clearly patterned after her own heart, that when he falls desperately in love with Eleanor it doesn't take long ere she gives way before his fascinations. All goes on merrily with them, poor Roger never dreaming of the perils of his titled friend.

By, however, Roger determines to sail his wife to Australia, and then it is all the trouble begins. The recalcitrant pair do not care to be separated, and they ponder designs to frustrate Roger's plans. They decide upon an elopement, but at the moment when all seems favorable to them the husband learns of his friend's perfidy and upsets all their arrangements. Before the fall of the final curtain Roger forgives his wife and, of course, all ends happily.

The cast is as follows:

Roger Ainslie.....William Faversham

Sir Noel Drage, his friend.....Robert Brown

Lord Francis Hilary.....Jameson Lee Finney

John Thorpe, foreman of the Midas Gold Mine.....E. B. Barnes

Driver, servant.....W. B. Barnes

Woodhouse, valet to Sir Noel.....George C. Pearce

Eleanor Ainslie, wife of Roger Ainslie.....Viola Allen

Miss Adela Antrobus, afterwards Lady Francis.....Miss Adela Antrobus

Nurse.....Ellen Gail

Miss Violet Antrobus.....Jane Harwar

Lady Whitford, sister of Sir Noel Drage.....Mrs. Thomas Whitford

"The Tempest" will be revived at Daly's theatre on Tuesday night. Nancy Mc-

neal will appear in the role of Miranda. A piece will be presented with hand-

me costumes and elaborate scenery.

Olga Nethersole will give "The Wife of

Searli," an adaptation of Glaser's Italian

play, "Trista Amori." Its first local hear-

ing at the Garden Theatre to-morrow

night.

The plot of the play is simple but inter-

esting. An Italian, Searli, by name, intro-

duces to his family a young man, who sub-

sequently falls desperately in love with

his wife. The woman returns the man's

affection and finally they determine to

elope. The husband becomes suspicious of

the couple, and orders his wife to depart

at once. A doll that belonged to Mino,

Searli's little daughter is found by the

erring woman, and so deeply moved is the

mother, heart by the memory of her child

that she pleads and secures her husband's

forgiveness, and domestic happiness reigns

again.

Marie Dressler, in her successful travesty,

"Fess of the Vandervilles," is still the main

attraction at the Pleasure Palace. During

her occupancy of the stage Miss Dressler

keeps the auditorium ringing with laughter

and applause. Such a bonnie, boisterous,

and Teena was never dreamed of until the

dear little actress brought into play her

varied resources as a fun maker. She sings,

and dances and burlesques emotional situations

with mercurial humor and infinite vivacity.

The new contingent of vaudeville enter-

tainers is headed by the amusing mono-

logist, George Fuller Golden, and he is

accompanied by Stanley and Burbeck, Ryan

and McNeill, Nelson, Glusacetti and In-

monio and a dozen others. A concert will

begin to-night.

The progressive Oscar Hammerstein cer-

tainly has no reason to complain of the

patronage his burlesque, "In Great New

York," is receiving at the Olympia Music

Hall. The piece will shortly be extended

to three acts, making a complete perform-

ance, and the material which Mr. Ham-

merstein will add to it will include many

humorous situations, mechanical contriv-

ances and varied specialties. The chief

features of the entertainment in its present

shape are a grand march of the four city

departments, a beautiful floral fountain, a

comic rubber man and a novel and pic-

turesque ballet. A new feature to be in-

troduced into the burlesque this week is

an amusing tramp musical act of Charles

R. Sweet, which has never been presented

in the city. Ara, Zebra and Vora, the

Eldridges and the Ostrin Troupe are

among those in the olio.

Maurice Barrymore has made such a pro-

nounced hit in "A Man of the World" at

Keith's that his engagement has been pro-

longed. Williams and Walker, "the two

real hot coons," who scored such a great

success during their engagement at Koster

and Bial's, are among the newcomers. Olu-

era on the bill are Stuart, "the male Fatti";

Thorne and Carlton, Professor Morris and

his trained ponies; T. J. Eckert and Lil-

lie Rega, in a musical comedy sketch; Hal

Merritt, monologue entertainer; the com-

edy trio, Mat Farrah, Lorenze and Allen;

Tom Mack, the three Dunbar sisters, Mon-

tagne and West, and Joe and Fannie Fields.

The program is continued, and the usual

series of new views will be shown to-mor-

row. "A Pantomime Hebraica" will be

produced at Keith's on April 15.

Roland Reed will present "The Politi-

cian" at the Grand Opera House. The

play contains many laughable situations,

and as General Josiah Limber, a political

wire puller, Mr. Reed is seen to splendid

advantage. One of the principal scenes of

the comedy shows the workings of a non-

instructing convention. In the star's support

is Isadore Rush, who will appear in her

original creation of the twentieth century

girl, Cleopatra Sturgis.

"A Texas Steer," Charles H. Hoyt's

amusing political travesty, is the attrac-

tion at the Star. Mr. Hoyt's ability to

write keen, witty, cutting satire and his

skill in constructing side-splitting situa-

tions, has long since been conceded by the

most critical playgoers. Here and there,

however, there are little touches of in-

trusion, as in "A Texas Steer." In the company

are Frank Keenan and Barry Maxwell.

"Darkest Russia," a sensational melo-

drama, which has never been seen in this

city in some time, comes to the Murray

Hill for a week's stay. The play tells an

exciting story of love, intrigue and adven-

ture and many phases of Russian life are

depicted. It is to be given with unusually

elaborate scenic and mechanical effects, and

it will be interpreted by a cast which in-

cludes Edma Herman, Paul Everson, M. J.

Jordan, Eva Byron, Carline Jordan, Helen

Holland and Sidney R. Elox. It is many

years since the latter gentleman has been

seen on the stage.

Hanson Brothers' spectacular extra-

ganza "Superba" is the offering at the

People's. Ingenious mechanical devices,

gorgeous scenery and a novel ballet are the

features of the piece.

"Jack and the Beanstalk" will occupy

the stage of the Harlem Opera House. Ac-

cording to well authenticated reports, this

picturesque production has had a season

of unprecedented success since its with-

drawal from the Casino. Its presentation

in Harlem will be marked by all the splen-

dor of scenic equipment and electrical ef-

fects which characterized its initial run.

"The Heart of Maryland," David Belas-

co's pretty play, begins a week's engage-

ment at the Academy of Music to-morrow

night.

Glimore and Leonard, "Ireland's Kings,"

will sing and dance through "Hogan's Al-

ley" at the Columbia this week.

Auguste Van Buren, the cellist, is still

the brilliant particular star of the bill at

Proctor's Twenty-third Street Theatre.

Rogers Brothers, the mirth-provoking Ger-

man dialect comedians, head the list of

laugh makers. Guth and Clifford, Pauline

Fletcher and George Figman, James F.

Hoey, Harry Watson, Durvan and Men-

ford, Marzello and Millay and the Jolivas

Blind Jugglers are among the other enter-

tainers.

The Hawthorne Sisters have caught on

immensely at Koster and Bial's. Artistic

simplification and refinement are the quali-

ties responsible for this success. Professor

Leonidas and his trained dogs and cats;

the Meers Brothers, daring acrobats; Fan-

nie Leslie and Sabaret are others on the

programme. "Gayest Manhattan," consid-

erably improved since its initial presen-

tation, is running along merrily.

Yucca, "the female Samson," is the

chief feature in the curio hall at Huber's

Museum. Other attractions are Harboe

and Samuelson, the two hardy Swedes,

who crossed the Atlantic in a rowboat;

Casper, "the Soap King," Professor Ker-

sike and his performing pigs; and Al-

bin, Mianle Schult is the main number on

the bill in the theatre.

Tony Pastor offers another capital bill for

this week. Gustav Williams, the popular

German comedian, is at the top of it, and

with him are McAvoy and May, Felix and

Cala, Maud Raymond, Billy Van, Odette,

Mulvey and Luman, the Patiens, the two

Patens, Lettie Wright, Mattie Cope and a

half-dozen others.

Charles H. Hoyt will present his popular

and amusing comedy, "A Black Sheep," at

his pretty little theatre in Twenty-fourth

street this week.

A special concert will be given at the

Columbia Theatre to-night, in which a

number of well-known vaudeville performers

will take part.

"Bocksprunge" has proved such a big

drawing card at the Irving Place Theatre

that Manager Conried has decided to con-

tinue it another week.

Several new and unique features will be

introduced into "Under the Red Globe" at

Webster & Field's to-morrow night.

The Metropolitan Grand Opera Company

return to the Metropolitan Opera House a

week from to-morrow night, and will then

begin a series of farewell performances.

The opening attraction will be "Fanny,"

and it is promised that the opera will be

interpreted by an ideal cast.

The annual Dore band concert, which

takes place at Chickering Hall on April 30,

will, it is said, surpass any entertainment of

the kind ever given in this city. Among

those who will contribute to the affair are

Edward C. Dobson, F. W. Hill, the Rutgers

College Glee Club, the Misses Ricca,

Archie Gunn, Little Irene, C. L. Van Baar

and J. F. Ahearn.

WAS IT FUNNY?

A Practical Joke of Whose Humor

the Victim Was Doubtful.

"Would you mind telling me something?"

he asked, with some hesitancy, relates the

Washington Star.

"Certainly not," the reporter answered.

"You see a great many newspapers?"

"I have to read considerably."

"And you ought to be able to tell

whether a thing is funny or not?"

"Can't you tell for yourself?"

"Ordinarily. But I have a case here that

needs an expert opinion. Some time ago I

was employed by a man to look after his

stock in trade, which consisted mainly of

beer. Some people came in, and in order

to entertain them I showed them a few

tricks that I had learned. One of them

said to me that he knew a good trick, and

that I would help him out he would

show it. I was willing to do anything I

could to make it pleasant for the company,

and when he asked me for an auger I

handed him a small one that happened to

be handy. He went over to a keg of beer

and bored a hole in it. He told me to put

my thumb over the hole. I did so, and

he bored another hole in the keg. At his

request I put my other thumb over the

other hole.

"What did he do?"

"Then he began to treat the crowd to

everything in sight. All I could do was

to reason with them about their conduct.

I didn't dare take either of my thumbs

off, for the result would have been a keiser

that would have ruined the new wall paper.

When they had helped themselves to all

they wanted they went away and left

me. It was two hours before the proprietor

came and, plugged up the holes and re-

leased me.

"Does the owner hold you responsible?"

"I don't know whether he does or not. I

haven't been back and the next time I go

to work it will be in a dry-goods store or

a grocery. All I want to ask you is this:

Was that a good joke or was it a case

of false pretences? Which ought I to do

laugh and be merry or have some people